

14.8.90

Dear Jim

Thanks for your letter and the copy of 'The Glasgow Keele'.

Although you say you are not directly involved with housing issues I am sure there is a lot of common ground with our work. Our main aim is to help build a strong multiracial working class community.

We would hope that Tenants Corner could develop into the kind of resource centre referred to ~~on~~ on the back page of 'The Keele'.

Here is a photocopy of an article from the Manchester tenants newsletter. Are the Glasgow Tenants Movement and Glasgow Tenants Co-ops viewed as part of the community, or are they engaged in some form of avoidable compromise with the local state?!

I hope we can continue this correspondence after your return in mid-October.

Regards

Max Boucher

ONE TENANTS VIEW GLASGOW 1990.

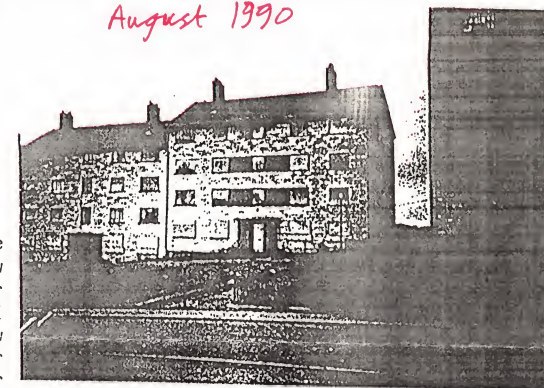
As a fairly new member of F.A.M.E. the aims of the fact finding trip to Glasgow were more vague to me than to the other members of the group. I only knew that I wanted to learn. Could the Glasgow tenants movement teach us, the Manchester Tenants anything about taking a stronger role in the running of our estates? What was so special about Glasgow, what had they done of importance? How naive!

One of the first facts that we were faced with was that Glasgow Tenants movement has 51 years of experience compared with Manchesters 7 or 8 years. The strength and organisation of the movement was obvious in the enthusiasm and knowledge of the largely voluntary workforce and in the far reaching practical results of their work,

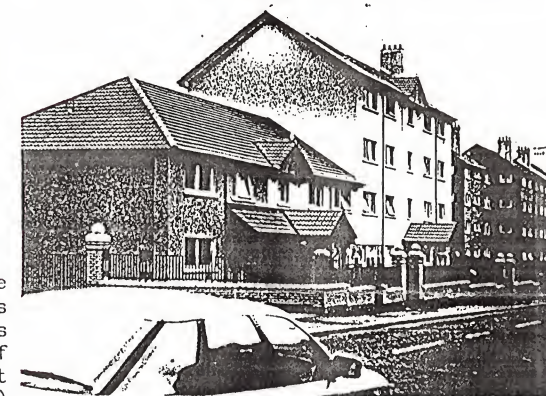
Through determination and persistence the tenants movement has real grassroots support thereby making the associations truly representative. Glasgow Council of Tenants Associations had 350 delegates at their A.G.M. (out of 134,000 tenancies) compared to 24 delegates at F.A.M.E.'s A.G.M. (out of 97,000 tenancies).

Glasgow Council of Tenants Associations and the individual Tenants Groups are funded through a Tenant Voluntary Action Fund, which is a voluntary payment of 5p a week on top of the rent. This scheme has proved very successful and has led to a well funded, well resourced independent Tenant Movement.

On top of that both tenants and the council have tapped into other sources of funding such as Urban Aid and E.E.C. grants. As a result tenants groups have their own lawyers paid from a Legal Action Fund, and their independent Technical Services Agency which provides architects and engineers. The Technical Services Agency works with and advises tenants groups to help renovate the old run down tenement blocks, combat damp, and research into energy and heat conservation.



OLD & NEW ON DRUMCHAPEL



Tenants have prevented the council cutting repairs and has sued them for illness caused by damp housing and installed alarms in houses of the old and infirm.

On visits to Glasgows large peripheral estates (situated on the outskirts of the city) tenants showed us their work on a variety of projects such as 'Furnish Aid' and which recycles good quality furniture to needier tenants and food Co-ops which provided good healthy food as cheaply as possible and a variety of training facilities to help tenants carry on and improve on past work.

So what did we as Manchester tenants gain from our visit to Glasgow? Well I think that we all came away inspired by the work and with a greater resolve to take a stronger more active and confident role in demanding our right for a say in what should be happening on our estates as well as greater control over how our homes are managed and improved.

An **ALTERNATIVE PLAN** for the **Whiteheads Site!**

- ★ Fed up with YET MORE office blocks in Vauxhall?
- ★ Private developers want to demolish the Whiteheads Marble Works and build a four-storey office block!
- ★ Could the Whiteheads site be used to provide:
training and employment for local people?
open space? housing? community facilities?
- ★ Come along to discuss what could be done!

Thursday
31st January
7.30pm
at Ashmole
Tenants Hall,
Meadow Road



Don't just sit at home and moan!
Come out and get involved!
Your ideas are needed!

This meeting is being called by Ashmole Tenants Association and Harleyford Court Tenants Association. For more information phone 582 7286

Making the Council
LISTEN?

Tenant Participation in Lambeth



Lambeth Tenant Participation Study
AUTUMN 1991